

another by seas or branches of seas, by climate and by the nature of its people and institutions. A certain amount of isolation must always exist. Political isolation is not only possible but in many respects desirable.

John Bright, the "Great Commoner," one of the wisest statesmen of England, once expressed the deepest envy of the geographical position of America. Opposed as he was to the Crimean war into which his country had been drawn by entangling political conditions he held up his hands in an agony of spirit and exclaimed:

"Oh, that my people were like unto those of America, who live far across the waters instead of having only a narrow channel separating them from the continent of Europe, where they can keep disentangled from these European broils and keep from sending their young men down into the pits of these bottomless hells every time politicians and statesmen and diplomats disagree with each other about some trifle."

If we are to abandon the policy of the Father of His Country at least we should make sure of a policy just as good. It is not an argument of value to say that Woodrow Wilson or even William McKinley suggested a new policy. On the contrary the tested policy of Washington has been our safeguard for more than a century and if we are as prudent as we should be we will reconsider the alluring proposals of later statesmen to involve us in the affairs of Europe. If we cannot remain as much isolated as of old it is something for mourning rather than rejoicing. If we are forced to abandon our isolation let us not take the step without providing against as many entangling contingencies as possible.

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#### A "BRITISH-MADE" COMPACT.

THE Irish delegates who caught up with President Wilson after he had been dodging them for days did not hesitate to show how much they distrusted him. Justice Goff, after asking the president to champion the cause of Irish self-determination before the peace conference in Paris, concluded his speech with these words: "Will you do it?"

The president demurred almost hysterically. He said the committee ought not to require of him a pledge that he would formally press Ireland's claims before the conference. He argued that he should be left to deal with developments according to his own judgment. The delegates, fearing that he would assume an attitude of bitter hostility despite his lukewarm statement of sympathy for the Irish cause, did not insist upon the pledge.

We have no quarrel with the president's position. We believe that he acted correctly from a diplomatic viewpoint, but we feel quite confident that his assent to the Irish plea for self-determination was hollow. Nor is this simply an intuition. It is based on whatever information we have been able to glean concerning the president's own views of the League of Nations covenant.

Our chief executive, who came home ostensibly to enlighten us as to the significance of the compact, did not confide in the public at all. His widely advertised New York speech, which put us all on the tiptoe of expectancy, was a fiasco. Leaving to former President Taft a specific defense of each section of the covenant, the president delivered an address in which, as he himself expressed it, he strove to give the "atmosphere" in which the covenant was conceived.

It was only at the secret dinner in Washington that he spoke candidly and we desire to quote from the New York Sun an astonishing summary of the views he expressed at his feast of unreason. The New York Sun declares that all senators, including Knox, Lodge, Brandegee, McCumber and Hitchcock, made the following statements and admissions:

1. The League of Nations will not prevent war.
2. The United States must surrender vital points of sovereignty.
3. Ireland is to be left to the mercies of England.
4. Chinese and Japanese exclusion go out of American control into the hands of the league council.
5. The Monroe Doctrine will be extended to the whole world.

6. The present constitution is British made, the French, American and Italian drafts having been rejected.

7. American troops could be compelled at need to participate in purely European wars.

8. The United States could withdraw from the league at any time.

The point we wish to emphasize is that the president, several days before meeting the Irish delegates, admitted that Ireland was to be left to the mercies of England by the terms of a "British-made" covenant. When he met the Irish delegates he said that he had "long" shared their views—views, mind you, which he swept out of court when he accepted the "British-made" covenant.

For party reasons President Wilson was not willing to antagonize the Irish, especially the New York Irish who have a chronic habit of voting the democratic ticket. For his own purposes the president needs as many of those votes as he and his party can retain in the next national campaign.

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#### RED RULE'S RESULTS.

WHAT would be your thoughts, gentle reader, if you should see the following dispatch from New York City some day in the near future:

"New York, etc.—In the streets tragic and terrifying scenes are enacted. A horse falls exhausted with hunger and is immediately attacked by a score of famished dogs, who begin tearing it. Red Guards with loaded revolvers keep off the crowd which soon assembles, watching the horrible sight with ferocious looks of envy. But sometimes the guards do not arrive in time and then men and women cast themselves upon the carcasses, slashing with their knives and fighting with the snarling dogs for the bleeding strips of flesh, which they devour on the spot, not having sufficient will power left to carry their booty home to cook.

"Such is the communist paradise which the Bolshevik promised their miserable dupes. Fear and famine have engendered a veritable epidemic of insanity.

"The asylums are overcrowded and for the last two months have been unable to accept new patients. Lunatics and maniacs of all kinds stalk raving through the streets. The prisons are full of madmen. In the maternity hospitals the death rate is incredibly high. According to the managing physician of one of these establishments 90 per cent of the mothers die after childbirth, and infant mortality is scarcely lower.

"Funerals like everything else, are 'nationalized,' that is to say, the dead are carried away in carts and dumped into a vast common grave at the cost of the state. No religious ceremony is performed, and no crosses may be erected over this gruesome pit."

That is the story told of conditions in Moscow by Russian refugees who have arrived in Switzerland. It is a baleful, soul-chilling story of a city under a socialistic regime.

You say that nothing of the kind can occur in the United States because the American people are experienced in self-government, understand the real meaning of liberty and are devoted to democracy as distinguished from socialism. Let us hope that you are right. Indeed, we believe that you are, but let us all keep our eyes fixed constantly on that old maxim: "Vigilance is the price of liberty."

Solicitor Lamar of the postoffice department has filed with the propaganda committee of the senate a memorandum in which he states that mail matter seized since the signing of the armistice reveals a movement to "perfect an amalgamation" of anarchists, radical socialists and others which shall have for its object the overthrow of the American government through a "bloody revolution." The memorandum was hardly necessary for intelligent observers of conditions. The I. W. W. organization has been preaching that doctrine "for twenty years," as Raymond Robins assured us in his testimony before the senate committee the other day.

Mr. Robins is himself a radical. He was head of the Red Cross in Russia and became the friend and confidant of Lenine and Trotzky. He says with a mildness characteristic of "highbrows" that he thinks Bolshevism is unsuited to the United States, but he takes care to